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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 10KARUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLJES; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR, MR. KRIND; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCP, FRUM, PINS, FINR, PROP, SREF,
ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-
NOVEMBER 29 1987

REF: KARUL 2147

1. (LOU) THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO
JOURNALISTS EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED.

2. SUMMARY:

A. (LOU) TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: FOUR ROCKETS STRUCK
NEAR THE SITE OF THE LOYA JIRGA, THE CRAW'S GRAND
ASSEMBLY, AS PARTY AND STATE LEADER NAJIBULLAH ADDRESSED
THE DELEGATES AND GUESTS, INCLUDING 50 FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS. THE ROCKETS CAPPED A WEEK OF INCREASED
MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY IN THE CITY AREA, INCLUDING BOMBINGS
AND ROCKETING. AT THE JIRGA, NAJIB ANNOUNCED THAT THE
TOWN OF KHOST IS UNDER SIEGE BY MUJAHIDIN FORCES AND
THAT REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES ARE UNABLE TO GET FOOD TO
THE POPULATION AND CITY GARRISONS. SEPARATE REPORTS
INDICATE THAT THE REGIME IS EVEN FACING DIFFICULTIES IN
ATTEMPTS TO AIR-DROP SUPPLIES INTO THE TOWN TO RELIEVE
WHAT THE REGIME DESCRIBES AS NEAR-FAMINE CONDITIONS. IN
AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE SIEGE, SOVIET AND AFGHAN FORCES
HAVE DEPLOYED SOUTH FROM KARUL IN GREAT NUMBERS AND FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN THE WAR, SUKHOI 25 GROUND SUPPORT JETS
ARE OPERATING OUT OF KARUL AIRPORT IN SUPPORT OF
SOVIET/DRA TROOPS IN THE KHOST-GARDEZ AREA. KANDAHAR IS
ALSO UNDER GROWING PRESSURE AS HEIGHTENED MUJAHIDIN
UNITY HAS LED TO LARGER, COMBINED UNIT ATTACKS ON THE
CITY. ROCKET ATTACKS RECENTLY HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY
INTENSE. REGIME CONTROL IN HERAT REPORTEDLY DOES NOT
EXTEND BEYOND CITY CENTER. IN JARJAK, DRA OFFICIALS
CONFIRM EARLIER REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN HAVE DIVERTED
POWER FROM AN ELECTRIC PLANT 25 KMS FROM KARUL FOR USE
BY MUJAHIDIN-CONTROLLED POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE. IN
MUJAHIDIN-CONTROLLED GHORFAND, IN FARLAN PROVINCE, THE
POPULATION APPEARS TO BE THRIVING EXCEPT FOR A DEARTH OF
MEDICAL CARE. RECENT REPORTS INDICATE MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS
IN GHAZNI, KONAR AND IN KABUL PROVINCE TO THE EAST AND
WEST OF THE CAPITAL. A SENIOR DRA MILITARY OFFICER
CLAIMS SOVIET CASUALTIES SINCE 1979 TOTAL 70,000 DEAD
AND WOUNDED. IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, KARUL'S ELECTRIC
POWER OUTPUT REMAINS FAR SHORT OF THE CAPITAL'S

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REQUIREMENTS AND THE AFGHANI HAS DROPPED IN VALUE AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR. KAHUL PARENTS OF SONS WOUNDED OR KILLED IN THE WAR ARE HITTER ABOUT TREATMENT OF THEIR LOVED ONES. MEANWHILE, PRESS GANGS CONTINUE TO UPAGHOON YOUNG MEN FOR COMBAT FROM KAHUL STREETS.

B. (C) NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

A ICRG SOURCE BASED IN KAHUL HAS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT EVEN IF ICRC DOES NOT OBTAIN ACCESS TO PRISONERS, IT WILL REMAIN IN KAHUL BECAUSE, HE EXPLAINED, THE ICRC MANDATE EXTENDS BEYOND PRISONER CONCERNS.

3. (LOU) KAHUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS: ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 29, FOUR ROCKETS STRUCK NEAR THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, SITE OF THE REGIME'S LOYA JIRGA, AS PCPA GENERAL SECRETARY AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH WAS GIVING HIS OPENING ADDRESS. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSIONS, A RANKING AFGHAN GENERAL HASTILY DEPARTED THE ROOM AND A SOVIET GENERAL ENTERED
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 10 APRIL 02202

E.O. 12354: DECL: 23/JUV/93

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→ AND WHISPERED IN THE EAR OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. THE
ROCKETS, ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS, KILLED FIVE AND
DAMAGED THE CAR OF AN EASTRUO C 242222F2222 WHO WAS
ATTENDING THE SESSION. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ROCKET
ATTACK, MEETING PARTICIPANTS HEARD MACHINE GUN FIRE AND
HELICOPTERS HOVERED LOW OVER THE SITE. FOREIGN
JOURNALISTS WERE NOT ALLOWED OUT OF THE BUILDING TO VIEW
THE RESULTS OF THE ATTACK. THE ROCKET ATTACK, AT LEAST
FIVE HUMM BLASTS AND THREE OTHER REPORTS OF INCOMING
ROCKETS DURING THE WEEK, OCCURRED DESPITE SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASED SOVIET AND CUBA SECURITY MEASURES IN AND AROUND
THE CITY, TAKEN AS PART OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE LOYA
JIRGA. SOURCES REPORT THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

-- NOVEMBER 28: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS TWO BOMB BLASTS IN KOTI SANGI. ONE OF THE SITES REPORTEDLY WAS AN OUTLET FOR SOVIET PRODUCTS. ONE DIPLOMAT NOTED MUCH BROKEN GLASS IN THE AREA FOLLOWING THE BLASTS WHILE ANOTHER REPORTS THAT MIR LAIS MAIDAN STREET LEADING INTO KOTI SANGI WAS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AT APPROXIMATELY 1230.

-- NOVEMBER 25 OR 26: ON EITHER NOVEMBER 25 OR 26 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A REGIME DEPOT IN KARTE CHAN.

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IMPACT IN WET CEMENT. THIS OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER AN AIRCRAFT BEARING PRIME MINISTER KESHTMANJ DEPARTED THE AIRPORT FOR MAZAR-I-SHARIF.

-- NOVEMBER 24: AT APPROXIMATELY 1800, SEVERAL MORTAR ROUNDS EXPLODED IN KOTI SANGI WITH ONE REGIME BUILDING DESTROYED AND SEVERAL OTHER BUILDINGS DAMAGED.

-- NOVEMBER 22: A HMMH, PLACED IN A CULVERT UNDER A ROAD IN THE JAMAL MEVA SECTION OF THE CITY (NEAR KARUL UNIVERSITY), DETONATED DESTROYING A PORTION OF THE ROAD. DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK, A SIMILARLY PLACED HMMH DESTROYED A SECTION OF ROAD IN THE KHAIR KHANA AREA. ALSO DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK, A HMMH EXPLODED IN KHAIR KHANA AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HOME OF A PROMINENT POPA (PARCHAMI FACTION) FIGURE.

-- NEW SECURITY MEASURES: ON THE MORNING OF THE LOYA JIRGA'S CONVENING, NOVEMBER 29, SECURITY, WHICH HAD BEEN INTENSIFIED ALL WEEK, WAS TIGHTENED FURTHER WITH THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 10 KABUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR FULAPS: PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO: DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAC. MR. MKIND: THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCP, FHM, PINS, FINR, FROP, SREF,

ASAC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

POSITIONING OF OVER 170 SARANDOI AND DRA ARMED GUARDS
ALONG A FOUR KM STRETCH OF ROAD THAT IS THE ROUTE TAKEN
BY NAJIBULLAH AND OTHER REGIME VIPS TO THE FUNCTION.
AFGHAN SOLDIERS WERE NOTED ON MANY ROOFTOPS. MEANWHILE,
AFGHANS REPORTED STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF A 2100 HOURS
CURFEW IN SOME PARTS OF KABUL AND MINISTRY OF STATE
SECURITY FORCES WERE SAID TO BE CONDUCTING
HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES FOR ARMS AND MUNITIONS IN SOME
AREAS. SOVIET AND DRA ARMORED VEHICLES WERE POSITIONED
ON HIGH GROUND NEAR THE LOYA JIRGA SITE WHILE OUTSIDE
THE CITY. AT ONE PERIMETER DEFENSE RING POST, AND AT ONE
SOVIET BASE, ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY WAS OBSERVED IN PLACE.

4. (LOU) KABUL PROVINCE: AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC
SOURCES REPORTED CONTINUED MUJAHIDIN PRESSURE IN WESTERN
KABUL PROVINCE AND TWO RECENT SUCCESSFUL MUJAHIDIN
MILITARY EFFORTS IN THE EAST.

A. KABUL WEST: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS, AND
DIPLOMATIC OBSERVATIONS CONFIRM, HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE
PAGHMAN AREA DURING THE EARLY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29.
ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED DRA POSITIONS IN THE PAGHMAN-KARGHA AREA,
NOVEMBER 22 AND 25. THE NOVEMBER 22 FIGHTING MAY HAVE
BEEN CONNECTED WITH A LIFT OF 16 MI-24'S WHICH HEADED
WEST FROM KABUL BETWEEN 1600 AND 1630. ANOTHER AFGHAN
CLAIMS THAT SOVIET AND DRA HELICOPTERS DO NOT FLY BEYOND
THE SOVIET/DRA FORWARD DEFENSE LINE ON THE PAGHMAN PLAIN
BUT RATHER HOVER BETWEEN 30 AND 50 METERS OVER THE LINE
AND FIRE INTO SUSPECTED MUJAHIDIN POSITIONS BEYOND IT.
MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED DRA POSITIONS AT PASHA'I ON THE NIGHT
OF NOVEMBER 20. A SEPARATE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT
MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN A SARANDOI POSITION AT TAPE PAGHMAN
(AKA GARNUZZIN), NOVEMBER 20. MUJAHIDIN HAD BEEN
ROCKETING DRA POSTS IN THE AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

B. KABUL EAST: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT DURING THE
THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER, MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED A DRA POST
AT UTRIL (NEAR PUL-I-CHARKHI) KILLING SIX SARANDOI.
ALSO DURING THAT WEEK, MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN A P-SE AT
LATARAND (SOUTHEAST OF KABUL) KILLING 25-30 SARANDOI.
(COMMENT: DRA FORCES HAVE BEEN STEADILY LOSING POSTS TO

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THE EAST OF KAHUL (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS) INDICATING A GROWING THREAT TO EASTERN KAHUL AND THE KIRUL-JALALABAD ROAD.)

C. KASUL SOUTH: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN KILLED THREE SOVIET TROOPS AT CHAHAR ASIAB. NOVEMBER 19.

5. (LOU) PARTIAL: IN COMMENTS BEFORE THE LOYA JIRGA, NOVEMBER 29, PARTY AND STATE LEADER NAJIBULLAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CITY OF KHOST WAS UNDER MUJAHIDIN SIEGE AND THAT IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE BASIC NECESSITIES, INCLUDING FOOD, TO THE 40,000 PEOPLE (INCLUDING DRA AND SOVIET TROOP GARRISONS) TRAPPED THERE. MEANWHILE, MULTIPLE, RELIABLE SOURCES REPORT KHOST HAS BEEN UNDER AT LEAST PARTIAL MUJAHIDIN SIEGE FOR OVER TWO WEEKS AND THAT THE REGIME HAS BEEN FORCED TO RELY ON AIR-DROPPED SUPPLIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO RELIEVE WHAT ONE RELIABLE SOURCE DESCRIBED AS NEAR-FAMINE CONDITIONS. A DRA AIRCRAFT THAT ATTEMPTED TO AIR-DROP AT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 10 KAPUL 02202

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 27-

KABUL. THEIR HOURLY BOMB-LADEN FLIGHTS TO THE SOUTHEAST
LEAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO KABUL IS
RELATED TO THE INTENSE FIGHTING IN PAKTIA. A SEPARATE
REPORT CONTENDS THAT, ON NOVEMBER 16, MUJAHIDIY DOWNED A

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MILITARY TRANSPORT IN THE KHUST AREA.

6. (LON) KANDAHAR: SINCE EARLY-MID NOVEMBER, FIGHTING
IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR HAS INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING
AGREEMENT BY MUJAHIDIN GROUPS IN THE AREA TO EXPAND
COOPERATION AND COORDINATION, SPECIFICALLY IN THE AREA
 OF COMBINED OPERATIONS. THE RESULT HAS BEEN
 SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED ATTACKS ON KANDAHAR AND ITS
 DEFENSES, PRINCIPALLY FROM THE MOHALAJAT AREA TO THE
 WEST OF THE CITY. (COMMENT: THE MOHALAJAT HAS BEEN
 ABLE TO RESIST MONTHS OF SOVIET ATTACKS BECAUSE OF ITS
 SANDY SOIL WHICH IMPEDES SOVIET ARMOR MOBILITY AND THE
 EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERGROUND TUNNEL NETWORKS IN
 THE AREA. THE AREA ALSO JOUCINS A WOODED, HILLY AREA
 WHICH ALLOWS THE MUJAHIDIN TO DISPERSE EASILY WHEN UNDER
 PARTICULARLY HEAVY PRESSURE.) KABUL SOURCES REPORT
RISING NUMBERS OF CASUALTIES FROM FIGHTING IN KANDAHAR
ARRIVING IN KABUL. DURING NOVEMBER, MUJAHIDIN HAVE
 FIRED 16-20 ROCKETS INTO KANDAHAR DAILY. ON NOVEMBER
 23, 16 TO 17 ROCKETS HIT NEAR THE PAKISTANI CONSULATE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 10 KARUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLICES; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR, MR. BRUND; THE HAGUE
FOR 2-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PRO, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

ONE ROCKET STRUCK A CONSULATE OFFICER'S RESIDENCE,
CAUSING SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES. CITY
AUTHORITIES CURRENTLY ENFORCE AN OFFICIAL 2100 TO 0400
CURFEW, BUT SHOPS CLOSE AT 1600. IN RESPONSE TO STRONG
COMPLAINTS BY CITY RESIDENTS, INCLUDING DELEGATION CALLS
ON THE KANDAHAR GOVERNOR, THE DRA HAS WITHDRAWN A
CONTINGENT OF JALZJANI TROOPS WHICH HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO
IMPROVE SECURITY IN THE CITY. (COMMENT: AS NOTED IN
PREVIOUS SITREPS, THE JALZJANI TROOPS HAD HARASSED AND
BULLIED THE CIVILIAN POPULATION). ACCORDING TO A
DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF NOVEMBER,
MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED AND EXECUTED 13 OF THE JALZJANI
TROOPS. IN OTHER RELATED MILITARY ACTION, A SOVIET
MIG-21 WAS DOWNED NEAR THE CITY BY MUJAHIDIN ON OR ABOUT
NOVEMBER 23. SOVIET TROOPS CORDED OFF THE AREA OF THE
CRASH TO SEARCH FOR THE PILOT WHO WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE PARACHUTED. A SEP
ORT CLAIMS THAT AN AIRCRAFT
WAS OBSERVED CRASHING IN AREA BETWEEN THE MOHALLAJAT AND
THE CUSTOMS HOUSE, NOVEMBER 24. FINALLY, ON NOVEMBER
18, MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY HIT A DRA CONVOY FROM KARUL AT
SHEH SAFAR (NEAR KANDAHAR CITY). MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED
ONE CIVILIAN AND FIVE MILITARY TRUCKS. EIGHT DRA
SOLDIERS DIED. KANDAHAR FOOD PRICES REPORTEDLY ARE
RISING. A PIECE OF BREAD WHICH COSTS 6 AFGHANIS (AFS)
IN KARUL, COSTS 16 AFS IN KANDAHAR (12 AFS IF PURCHASED
FROM ONE OF THE FEW BAKERIES WHICH HAVE ACCESS TO
REGIME-SUBSIDIZED FLOUR). THE KANDAHAR PRICE FOR WHEAT
IS 37 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE KABUL PRICE. BEEF COSTS
250 AFS PER KG (180-220 IN KARUL). MUTTON 380 AFS (320
IN KARUL) AND CHICKEN, WHICH IS RARELY AVAILABLE 500-600
AFS (450-500 IN KABUL). THE ONLY FRUIT CURRENTLY
AVAILABLE IN KANDAHAR IS BANANAS. A KANDAHAR SOURCE
ATTRIBUTED THE SHORTAGE OF FRUITS (AND VEGETABLES) TO
THE EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION IN THE FORMERLY RICH BELT OF
CULTIVATION THAT SURROUNDED THE CITY. A KANDAHARI
RECENTLY CLAIMED THAT REGIME SUPPORTERS IN KANDAHAR NOW
NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS. EARLY SUPPORT FOR THE
REVOLUTION IN KANDAHAR WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT
SEVERAL IMPORTANT PARTY LEADERS WERE FROM THE CITY, BUT,
ACCORDING TO THIS KANDAHARI, THAT SUPPORT HAS MELTED
AWAY. THE KANDAHAR ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY HAS
ATTEMPTED SOME RECONSTRUCTION IN THE CITY. YOUTH.

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RECURSION

DRAGONEE FROM KAMUL AS A TEMPORARY WORK FORCE, HAVE BEEN USED TO CLEAN THE CITY'S CANALS, BUILD A WATER TANK AND DO MINOR REPAIRS. IN ADDITION THE CITY ADMINISTRATION HAS REPAIRED AND OPENED SOME SHOPS IN THE HERAT BAZAAR AREA, AND REPAIRED THE ANNEX TO THE KANDAHAR HOTEL AND THE AFGHANISTAN BANK.

7. (LOW) HERAT: A RECENT VISITOR TO HERAT DESCRIBES THE CITY CENTER AS UNDER REGIME CONTROL AND LARGELY FREE OF FIGHTING. OUTSIDE THE CENTER, HOWEVER, MUJAHIDIN ARE IN CONTROL. THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY AND SUBURBS TO THE WEST ARE LARGELY DESTROYED. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO CULTIVATION IN THE AREA. IN THE CENTER OF HERAT, LIFE APPEARS RELATIVELY NORMAL. SOVIET TROOPS ARE RARELY SEEN. THERE IS ELECTRICITY (ONLY AT NIGHT) AND TAP WATER IS AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME INTERRUPTIONS. RESIDENTS STRICTLY OBSERVE AN INFORMAL 1900-0500 CURFEW. MEDICINES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MARKETS. THE NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR IS FAZIL HAD KHALIQAR, A NON-PARTY FIGURE WHO TOOK THE JOB DURING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 10 APRIL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 21/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MGRP, PHJM, PINS, PINK, PAND, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

Herat

Fazil Haq Khaligyar, Gov.

→ THE YEAR. HE IS FROM A PROMINENT HERAT FAMILY AND
EXCEPT FOR HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE REGIME IS NOT
DISLIKED. HE SERVED AS MINISTER UNDER BOTH ZAHIR SHAH
AND DAUD AND AS A MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FROM 1985 TO 1987. PEOPLE IN THE
CITY APPEAR TO HAVE BECOME MORE RELIGIOUS SINCE THE
REVOLUTION BUT THE LARGELY SUNNI POPULATION
(APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT) SHOWS NO SYMPATHY FOR THE
AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI. THERE ARE NO POSTERS OF THE IRANIAN
LEADER AND MULLAHS GENERALLY SPEAK OF AN AFGHANISTAN
FREE OF ALL FOREIGN INFLUENCE. THERE ARE BOTH REGIME
AND "FREE" MULLAHS. THE LATTER PREDOMINATING. THE
REGIME ADMINISTERS SERVICES (SUCH AS SCHOOLS) ONLY IN
THE CITY CENTER WITH NO INFLUENCE BEYOND THE CENTER
EXCEPT WHERE IT HAS ESTABLISHED A MILITARY PRESENCE.
THERE IS NO REGULAR TRADE WITH IRAN THOUGH THERE IS MUCH
PRIVATE TRADE CONSISTING OF SMALL ELECTRONIC GEAR, MUSIC
AND VIDEO CASSETTES AND FINISHED CLOTHING, USUALLY FROM
THE WEST. LOCAL MERCHANTS IMPORT CARPETS AND GOLD. 2
SEPARATE RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS INCREASED FIGHTING IN
THE HERAT AREA RECENTLY.

3. (LOU) PARWAN: A REPORT SOURCED TO A RESIDENT OF
GHORHANG (34°59'N 68°44'E) PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING
PICTURE OF LIFE IN A MUJAHIDIN-CONTROLLED TOWN. THE
AREA HAS BEEN FREE OF REGIME OR SOVIET CONTROL FOR MANY
YEARS. AIRCRAFT RARELY APPROACH THE AREA. IN RECENT
MONTHS, THE TOWN HAS BEEN A TRANSIT POINT FOR
PAKISTAN-BOUND REFUGEES FROM THE SHOMALI WHICH WAS THE
SCENE OF EXTENSIVE SOVIET DESTRUCTION OF HOMES AND
AGRICULTURE IN AUGUST. HEZRI-ISLAMI (HEKMATYAR) IS THE
DOMINANT MUJAHIDIN GROUP IN THE AREA. RECENTLY, THERE
HAVE BEEN DISPUTES BETWEEN THIS GROUP AND MUJAHIDIN
LOYAL TO MASOOD'S COUNCIL OF THE NORTH. MUJAHIDIN
ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTS ISLAMIC SCHOOLS AND COOPERATES
WITH ISLAMIC JUDGES IN THE SETTLING OF LOCAL DISPUTES
AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF ISLAMIC JUSTICE. FOOD IS
GENERALLY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL SOURCES IN GOOD QUANTITY
AND AT LOW PRICES. SOME FINISHED PRODUCTS COME FROM
PAKISTAN. THERE IS NO ELECTRICITY EXCEPT THAT PROVIDED
BY GENERATOR AND MEDICAL CARE IS POOR. FEW MEDICINES
AND NO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ARE AVAILABLE (A FRENCH

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MEDICAL TEAM ASSISTED IN THE TOWN EARLY IN 1986.) .
SERIOUSLY ILL PEOPLE GENERALLY TRY TO REACH PAKISTAN.
SOME GO TO KARUL. A DIPLOMAT REPORTS, SEPARATELY, THAT
ON NOVEMBER 26, MUJAHIDIN AT HAJ PULAJ (UNLOCATED)
ATTACKED A DRA POST KILLING FOUR DEFENDERS AND CAPTURING
EIGHT.

9. (LOU) WARDAK: DRA SOURCES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
MUJAHIDIN CONTROL A POWER PLANT IN THE MAIDAN SHAHR
AREA, APPROXIMATELY 25 KMS SOUTHWEST OF KARUL. THE
PLANT CAN GENERATE 3.5 MEGAWATTS. (COMMENT: AN EARLIER
SITREP REPORTED THAT MUJAHIDIN IN WARDAK HAD DIVERTED
ELECTRICITY INTENDED FOR KARUL TO AREAS OF WARDAK UNDER
MUJAHIDIN CONTROL.)

10. (LOU) GHAZNI: MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY KILLED 12 DRA
TROOPS AT KHUGI GHARIBAGH (AN OUTER DISTRICT OF GHAZNI
TOWN) NOVEMBER 25. IN MUKHTAP, IN MID-NOVEMBER
FIGHTING, SEVERAL SOVIET VEHICLES WERE DESTROYED. ON
NOVEMBER 23, ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 10 KARUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLARIS; PARIS ALSO FOR
 USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PA, MP, ARUND; THE HAGUE
 FOR A-GAM

C.O. 12354: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MUPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, FINK, PROP, SREF.

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

→ KILLED THREE SOVIETS IN A JEEP IN THE VICINITY OF KANDI
 SANDI (NORTHWEST OF GHAZNI).

11. (LOU) NANGARHAR: RELIABLE SOURCE'S REPORT THAT 22 FEB 76 21 42 X 2 FEG 222 PAKHTAR FLI
 GHTS BETWEEN KANDI AND
 JALALABAD SINCE NOVEMBER 7 (AN EARLIER REPORT OF A
 NOVEMBER 18 FLIGHT WAS IN ERROR.) (COMMENT: IT IS
 POSSIBLE THAT THE JALALABAD AIRPORT CURRENTLY IS
 SUPPORTING MILITARY OPERATIONS TO THE NORTH IN KONAR AND
 TO THE SOUTHWEST IN PAKTIA, AND THAT THE VOLUME OF
 MILITARY AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS PRECLUDES USE OF THE AIRPORT
 BY CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.)

12. (LOU) KONAR: ACCORDING TO A REPORT SOURCED TO TWO
 HUNDRED PIRA SOLDIERS, THERE WAS HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN
MUJAHIDIN AND SOVIET/PAK FORCES AT USMAR ON OR ABOUT
NOVEMBER 11.

13. (LOU) PAKHTA: A RECENT TRAVELLER REPORTED THAT
 MAZAR-I-SHARIF, DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER, WAS
 QUIET. FOOD REPORTEDLY WAS IN GOOD SUPPLY.

14. (LOU) MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. SOVIET CASUALTIES: A REPORT, SOURCED TO A SENIOR
 U.S. MILITARY OFFICER, CLAIMS THAT SINCE 1971 SOVIET
 MILITARY PERSONNEL LOSSES (KILLED AND WOUNDED) AMOUNT TO
 70,000.

estimate of 70,000 Soviet
 casualties

B. SUKHOI-25'S AT KARUL: BEGINNING NOVEMBER 23 (ONE
 REPORT CLAIMS NOVEMBER 22), SIX SUKHOI 25'S HAVE BEEN
 FLYING HOURLY BOMBING MISSIONS OUT OF KARUL TOWARD THE
 SOUTHEAST. THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH REPORTEDLY DEPLOYED FROM
 BAGRAM AIRBASE IN PARWAN, APPEAR TO BE PART OF THE MAJOR
 SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO LIFT THE SIEGE OF KHOST IN PAKTIA
 (SEE ABOVE). (COMMENT: THE DEPLOYMENT OF THESE
 AIRCRAFT TO KARUL, FOR OPERATIONAL MISSIONS, IS
 UNPRECEDENTED. IT APPEARS TO REFLECT THE INTENSITY OF
 THE FIGHTING IN THE KHOST AREA AND POSSIBLY INDICATES
 SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF OPERATIONS FROM BAGRAM
 AIRBASE.) CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT (INCLUDING TWO FOREIGN
 PASSENGER AIRCRAFT) WERE REQUIRED TO ADOPT UNUSUAL

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FLIGHT PATTERNS IN ORDER TO AVOID OTHER MILITARY AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA ON NOVEMBER 26. THE SIKHOI'S DEPLOY PARACHUTES ON LANDING AND DISPENSE FLARES IN GROUPS OF FOUR ON DEPARTURE AND AS THEY GAIN ALTITUDE OVER THE KABUL BASIN.

C. ROAD SECURITY: AS OF MID-NOVEMBER, THE KABUL-KANDAHAR ROAD WAS CLEAR FOR MOST CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. ALTHOUGH THE ROUTE REQUIRED FOUR DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS TO TRANSIT. A KANDAHARI CLAIMS THAT THE ROAD CONNECTING SPIN HALDER WITH KANDAHAR IS GUARDED BY BETWEEN 20 TO 30 POSTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF REAR TURNCOAT COMMANDER ISMATULLAH MUSLIM.

D. SOVIET PROSTITUTES: AN AFGHAN MERCHANT WHO TRADES REGULARLY WITH SOVIET PERSONNEL REPORTS THAT SOVIET PROSTITUTES ARE BROUGHT INTO AFGHANISTAN TO HOLSTER SOVIET TROOP MORALE. THE LADIES' TOURS OF DUTY ARE THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 10 KARUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR FOLDES; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEAPAH; MR. ARUND; THE HAGUE
FOR A-244

E.O. 12356: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MOPR, PHJM, PINS, PINK, PRO, SREF,

ASEC, UP, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

15. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

A. POWER SUPPLY IN KARUL: SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH THE
KARUL GRID AND CONSUMPTION REPORT THAT THE GRID PRODUCES
APPROXIMATELY 170 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY BUT DEMAND
RUNS AT 230 MEGAWATTS DAILY. AT PEAK USAGE PERIODS
(0600-0700 AND 1800-2000), THE GRID DEMAND RISES TO 300
MEGAWATTS. KARUL'S GROWING POPULATION AND POOR QUALITY
OF THE CITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND STATE OF REPAIR POSE
SEEMINGLY INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

B. AF HANI VALUE FLUCTUATION: AT ONE POINT DURING THE
WEEK THE AFGHANI IN COMPARISON WITH THE U.S. DOLLAR
PLUMMETED TO 189 TO THE DOLLAR FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEKS'
173-175. THE FLUCTUATION WAS PROMPTED BY A REGIME
COMPANY'S PURCHASE OF A REPORTED 70,000 TONS OF SUGAR.
THE SUGAR WAS OFFERED TO LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AT A PRICE
THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO SELL IT AT SUBSTANTIAL PROFIT
IN PAKISTAN, PROVIDING THE SUGAR WAS PURCHASED IN U.S.
DOLLARS. THE RESULTANT RISK ON THE DOLLAR SPARKED THE
FLUCTUATION. THE DOLLAR, HOWEVER, AT WEEK END WAS BEING
PURCHASED AT 179 AFS.

C. RE-EXPORT TRADE: A BUSINESSMAN ESTIMATES THAT 90
PERCENT OF THE IMPORTS TO AFGHANISTAN ARE RE-EXPORTED TO
PAKISTAN. A SHUT-OFF OF THIS TRADE, HE ASSESSED, WOULD
DEVASTATE THE DRA ECONOMY AS IT IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT
SOURCE OF HARD CURRENCY FOR THE COUNTRY. DRA TRADERS
MUST PURCHASE THEIR HARD CURRENCY ON THE FREE MARKET FOR
IMPORT OF ALL ITEMS EXCEPT MEDICINES AND RAW MATERIALS
USED IN MANUFACTURING. FOR THESE ITEMS, THE REGIME
PROVIDES A SPECIAL RATE WHICH IS IN EFFECT A SUBSIDY.
(I.E., THE REGIME SELLS DOLLARS TO MERCHANTS IMPORTING
RAW MATERIALS AND MEDICINES AT A RATE CHEAPER THAN THE
PREVAILING FREE MARKET RATE, THEREBY ENCOURAGING IMPORT
OF RAW MATERIALS AND MEDICINES.)

D. DRA EXPORTS: DRA TRADERS CLAIM THE DRA EXPORT
SITUATION IS GROWING BLEAKER, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD
TO DRIED FRUITS, ESPECIALLY RAISINS, TRADITIONALLY AN
IMPORTANT EXPORT. BECAUSE OF WAR-INDUCED SHORTAGES,
RAISIN PROCESSORS ARE HAVING TO PAY 900 AFGHANIS PER

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SEEF (7 KGS) WHICH IS TOO HIGH TO BE COMPETITIVE ON THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET. ONE OWNER OF A VINEYARD NEAR JARZ-I-MIR, SITE OF AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM BELONGING TO FORMER KING ZAHIR SHAH (30 KMS NORTH OF KABUL), NOTED THAT THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING AND DESTRUCTION IN THE AREA THIS SUMMER HAS "FINISHED" HIS VINEYARD. THE FIGHTING PREVENTED NECESSARY IRRIGATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE VINEYARD. MOREOVER, A PORTION OF IT WAS BOMBED. THE OWNER ESTIMATED THAT HIS VINEYARD, AND OTHERS IN THE AREA, WILL REQUIRE 15 YEARS TO RECOVER THEIR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL.

*Destruction of
vineyards
north of Kabul*

U. CPA IMPORTS: BUSINESSMEN COMMENT THAT THE WEAKNESS OF THE AFGHANI IN RELATION TO THE FRG MARK AND OTHER RELATIVELY STRONG CURRENCIES HAS MADE PRODUCTS FROM THESE COUNTRIES TOO EXPENSIVE TO IMPORT. RE HARTER EXCHANGE WITH THE EAST BLOCK, ACCORDING TO BUSINESS SOURCES, THE RATE FOR CLEARING DOLLARS IS ONE DOLLAR EQUALS 62 AFGHANIS. THIS IS THE FIGURE USED TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OWED TO AFGHAN TRADERS WHO SET THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 09 OF 10 KARUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLAFS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAN, MR. BRIND; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

L.O. 12354: OFCL: 27/NOV/93

TAGS: PRFL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PIVR, PROB, SREF,

ASEC, UP, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

VALUE OF THEIR GOODS IN DOLLARS IN BARTER EXCHANGE WITH
THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER CLEANSING ACCOUNT FLOC
COUNTRIES.

F. MOVEMENT OF PRODUCTS FROM THE U.S. TO AFGHANISTAN:
A TRADER SAID THAT A SHIPMENT OF BRAKE FLUID FROM THE
U.S. TAKES 3 AND 1/2 TO FOUR MONTHS TO REACH KARUL. IT
IS SHIPPED FROM THE U.S. TO WAKHODKA IN THE SOVIET
UNION, THEN OVERLAND BY RAIL TO THE DRA-SOVIET BORDER,
THENCE BY TRUCK TO KARUL. THE KARACHI-PESHAWAR-KARUL
ROUTE IS LITTLE USED AND THE KARACHI-CHAMAN-KARUL ROUTE
IS NEVER USED.

G. JAPANESE TRADE FAIR 2000: A JAPANESE TRADE FAIR
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN OCTOBER, INSTEAD GOT
UNDERWAY IN NOVEMBER TO A DEARTH OF PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC
INTEREST. MOST OF THE 21 JAPANESE FIRMS REPRESENTED ARE
OFFERING GOODS FOR THE MOST PART, ALREADY AVAILABLE IN
KARUL.

16. (LOU) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS:

A. DRA MISHANDLING OF WAR-WOUNDED AND WAR-DEAD:
PARENTS COMPLAIN OF GREAT DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED IN
ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE THEIR SONS, WOUNDED WHILE IN THE DRA
MILITARY. KARUL MILITARY HOSPITALS KEEP POOR RECORDS,
REQUIRING PARENTS TO MAKE THE ROUNDS OF ALL MILITARY
HOSPITALS, SOMETIMES GOING FROM WARD TO WARD IN SEARCH
OF THEIR SONS. OTHER PARENTS COMPLAIN THAT THE REMAINS
OF THEIR SONS, KILLED IN BATTLE, ARE NOT RETURNED TO
KARUL. INSTEAD THEY ARE BURIED WHERE THEY FALL. THIS
HAS BEEN TRUE OF MEN KILLED IN THE KANDAHAR AREA WHERE
CASUALTIES THIS SUMMER WERE HIGH. PARTY CARE AND
OFFICERS' REMAINS USUALLY ARE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES
IN KARUL.

B. PRESS GANG OPERATIONS CONTINUE: A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED
DRA MILITARY DRAGOONING YOUNG BOYS INTO THE MILITARY IN
A CROWDED MARKET AREA NEAR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AT
1630, NOVEMBER 27.

17. (LOU) SOVIETIZATION:

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A. THE KARUL MUSEUM: AN ASIAN EXPERT ON KUSHAN CULTURE NOTES THAT THE KARUL MUSEUM IS RUN UNDER SOVIET-STYLE MUSEUM MANAGEMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT A NUMBER OF PRICELESS ITEMS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE MUSEUM FOR USE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

B. DPA TROOPS TO THE SOVIET UNION: AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT CLAIMS THAT APPROXIMATELY 1,000 DPA TROOPS WENT TO THE SOVIET UNION BY AIR DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF THE MONTH FOR "TRAINING."

1A. (LOU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

A. LOYA JIRGA CONVENES: THE REGIME LOYA JIRGA CONVENED ON NOVEMBER 29. THE OPENING SESSION, WHICH WAS ADDRESSED BY NAJIBULLAH, WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE EXPLOSION OF FOUR ROCKETS NEAR THE ASSEMBLY HALL. IN AN APPARENT DEPARTURE FROM THE SCRIPT FOR THE JIRGA, NAJIB ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KHOST, IN PAKHTIA PROVINCE, WAS IN A
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 10 OF 10 KAHUL 02202

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAH. MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12354: DECL: 23/NOV/93

TAGS: PREL. MOPS. MCP. FHUM. FIAS. FINR. PAOP. SREF.

ASEC. UP. AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT NOVEMBER 23-

→ STATE OF SIEGE. INITIAL INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT THE
NEW CONSTITUTION DOES NOT CONTAIN SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES
FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAFT.

B. GENEVA ON INTERMEDIARY EXPECTED IN KAHUL: A
RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMS AN INTERMEDIARY DIEGO CORDOVEZ IS
EXPECTED IN KAHUL AND ISLAMABAD IN LATE DECEMBER.

19. (LOU) KAHUL MEDIA:

A. NOVEMBER 25: THE KAHUL MEDIA REPORT THAT DR. AREIL
WAHID SARABI, FORMERLY MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
(SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS) AND A HAZARA WAS NAMED
MINISTER OF HIGHER AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. ALSO,
MOHAMMAD YAKHAR SHORMACH WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF
NATIONALITIES IN THE NEW MINISTRY WHICH WAS CREATED FROM
THE FORMER MINISTRY OF TRIBES AND NATIONALITIES.
SHORMACH, A NURISTANI, WAS FORMERLY A DEPUTY MINISTER OF
NATIONALITIES AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS.

B. NOVEMBER 26: KAHUL MEDIA REPORT IN A NOVEMBER 25
KAHUL CITY PARTY COMMITTEE, FOUR PERSONS WERE REMOVED
FROM MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE BUREAU; TEN
WERE REMOVED FROM THE CITY PARTY COMMITTEE AND TEN FROM
THE AUDITING COMMISSION. THE MEETING ELECTED TWO
PERSONS TO MEMBERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU, TEN TO THE
PARTY COMMITTEE AND FOUR TO THE AUDITING COMMISSION.
(COMMENT: THE APPARENT SHAKEUP AND PURGE FOLLOWS THE
TUMULTUOUS CITY PARTY DISTRICTS' ELECTION OF DELEGATES
TO THE PDPA SECOND CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER WHICH SAW TWO
CITY DISTRICTS NOMINATE OUSTED PARTY LEADER HABRAK
KARMAL AS A DELEGATE.)

C. NOVEMBER 28: AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE KAHUL NEW
TIMES CONDEMNED THE U.K. GOVERNMENT FOR "DIRECT
INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE DRA" BY
ALLEGEDLY SENDING INSTRUCTORS TO AFGHANISTAN TO TRAIN
MUJAHIDIN IN "SUBVERSION AND SPYING." THE ACCUSATIONS
ARE DERIVED FROM ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED RECENTLY IN THE
"OBSERVER" AND THE "INDEPENDENT." THE SAME EDITION
CARRIES A HAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY CLAIM THAT FIVE KGS
OF EXPLOSIVES WERE SEIZED NEAR THE CINEMA PAMIR IN

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DOWNTOWN KARUL (NO DATE GIVEN).

20. (C) NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: AN ICRC DELEGATE, BASED IN KARUL CLAIMS THAT THERE IS SOME PROGRESS BEING MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING PRISONER ACCESS BUT THAT, EVEN SHOULD IT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ACCESS, ICRC WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN IN KARUL BECAUSE, HE SAID, THE ICRC MANDATE EXTENDS FAR BEYOND PRISONER PROTECTION. HE ADDED THAT ICRC IS CONCERNED OVER ITS ABILITY TO HIRE THE PEOPLE IT NEEDS FOR ITS MEDICAL PROJECTS BECAUSE OF KHAD (MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY) INTIMIDATION. A SENIOR ICRC OFFICER FROM GENEVA ARRIVES IN KARUL THIS WEEK.

21. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. JTRXZAN

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